

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

October 2, 1981

STAT

15 Memo For [redacted]

Frank:

Attached for your/ADM Inman's personal information is a copy of what I'm trying to get out of DoD on the topic of HR 3231 and the Dept. of Education's proposed opposition. If I get this to go I'll feel like a prince!

I'm off to Europe for 2 weeks. If DoD comes on line with this response (or any thing like it) I'll have Ann Gillenwater give you a call for info.

*He did not succeed, unfortunately.
RH*

Very respectfully,

Craig
Craig L. Wilson

Enclosure

Admiral INMAN

NO REFERRAL TO OSD. WAIVER APPLIES

Honorable David A. Stockman
Director, Office of Management
and Budget
Washington, D. C. 20503

Dear Mr. Stockman:

The Department of Defense has reviewed the draft Department of Education letter on HR 3231 which, in effect, opposes the Bill to further the national security by providing grants for foreign language programs. While time does not permit research and familiarization with all of the specific programs and problems cited in the proposed DOE letter, our knowledge of the serious need to strengthen national multi-lingual capabilities is well founded in the experience of attempting to recruit, train, and field a competent Defense force. In summary, we do not agree with the proposed Department of Education position to oppose the Bill.

It is heartening to note DOE's endorsement of efforts to strengthen foreign language capabilities of American students. However, we are not aware of any program that exists, or that is planned, that addresses the level of effort needed to rectify serious shortages in American foreign language trained people. The Department of Defense alone requires between 12,000 and 13,000 foreign linguists and trains over 4,000 people each year in basic language skills. Given time restrictions (especially for enlisted personnel), the demographics of the feeder population to an All Volunteer Force, incomplete manning of some Defense linguist missions, and the inadequate public reserve to meet national security contingencies, it seems only reasonable that a major Federal funded program is necessary to turn the situation around. While the size of the proposed investment is substantial, when viewed in the context of our total sunk costs and proposed investments in weapons, intelligence, and warning systems, deployed manpower (for both the diplomatic and military communities), and potential for international commerce,

\$60,000,000 seems to be a prudent investment for the future.

The Department of Defense, and its sister agencies in the intelligence and diplomatic communities, can not and should not solely bear the burden of producing foreign language skilled people to meet national needs. We need to draw from an educated population that has either the required talent or at least the rudiments of some learning experience in critical subject areas. We may be able to realize some return on the investment by decreasing training time, increasing skills to required levels, and improving fill rates for critical foreign language positions.

Notwithstanding the recognizable administrative, philosophical, pedagogical, and political problems inherent in Federal-State educational programs, HR 3231 appears to be a step in the right direction. We recommend that the Bill be supported as written, or that programmatic differences between the Department of Education and the authors of the Bill be resolved promptly so that the Administration can proceed to support it without reservation.

Sincerely,

Casper W. Weinberger

Prepared by: Mr. Craig L. Wilson/59228/20ct81